

Application Serial No. 10/667,248
Amendment dated January 16, 2008
Reply to Office Action dated November 18, 2007

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A bone fixing system comprising a nail, the nail comprising a longitudinal axis, a longitudinal bore defining an inner wall of the nail, and three transverse bores each defining a longitudinal axis, wherein each of said longitudinal axes defined by said three transverse bores is non-parallel and non-intersecting with respect to both of the other of said longitudinal axes of said transverse bores, and three screws, which can be guided through the transverse bores formed in the nail, the transverse bores being configured so as to define an orientation and a position of a screw with respect to the longitudinal axis of the nail, wherein the spatial orientation and position imposed on a screw guided through one of the transverse bores is different in three dimensions for each of the three transverse bores, the bone fixing system further comprising at least one clamping member which can be introduced into the longitudinal bore and is axially adjustable in the longitudinal bore relative to the nail, with all screws guided through the transverse bores being able to be clamped between a clamping member and the inner wall of the nail bounding the transverse bore by a displacement of at least one clamping member.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn): A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the longitudinal bore of the nail is provided with an inner thread section in which the clamping member can be screwed.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 1, comprising three clamping members in the form of grub screws.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 1, comprising a sleeve-like or bushing-like insert adapted for insertion into the longitudinal bore of the nail and having three passages adapted for alignment with the transverse bores of the nail when inserted and the insert being adapted for cooperation with the at least one clamping member.

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Claim 5 (Withdrawn): A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 4, wherein the inner side of the insert is provided with an inner thread section in which the clamping member can be screwed.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 4, wherein the insert is made of a first material, which has a higher toughness and/or hardness than a second material, of the nail.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 4, wherein the insert is rotationally fixedly connected to the nail.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 4, wherein the insert and the longitudinal bore are adapted for press-fitting or screwing into the longitudinal bore of the nail.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 1, wherein a clamping member is provided for each screw which can be guided through one of the transverse bores.

Claim 10 (Cancelled).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 1 comprising a displacement device arranged and adapted for effecting a pulling force on a clamping member, wherein a section of the clamping member disposed on a side of a screw remote from the displacement device can be moved against the screw by the pulling force.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 11, wherein the clamping member when inserted is freely movable at least in the axial direction within the longitudinal bore of the nail and comprises a passage for each screw being arranged and adapted to be aligned with one of said transverse bores.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 11, wherein the displacement device includes a drawing screw which cooperates with a thread

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section of the clamping member and is supported at the nail so as to pull the clamping member in the axial direction when actuated.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 11, the nail having multiple transverse bores wherein the clamping member has a plurality of passages which are spaced apart from one another in the axial direction and are each arranged and adapted to be aligned with a transverse bore of the nail.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 11, wherein the clamping member is adapted to be deformed in the axial direction by means of the displacement device.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 15, comprising a plurality of screws, wherein the clamping member can be deformed such that the plurality of screws spaced apart from one another in the axial direction of the nail can each be clamped between the clamping member and the inner wall of the nail bounding the respective transverse bore by the displacement of the clamping member.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A bone fixing system in accordance with claim 11 comprising a securing member which can be moved through a side wall of the nail into the longitudinal bore and by which the clamping member can be fixed in a starting position relative to the nail prior to the actuation of the displacement device.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): A bone fixation system in accordance with claim 6, wherein the first material is a cobalt chromium alloy.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): A bone fixation system in accordance with claim 6, wherein the second material comprises titanium.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): The bone fixation system of claim 12, wherein the clamping member has a sleeve shape.

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Claim 21 (Previously Presented); The bone fixation system of claim 17, wherein the securing member is a securing screw.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The bone fixation system of claim 1, wherein the transverse bores are essentially circular in cross section.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): A bone fixation nail comprising a longitudinal axis, a longitudinal bore, and three transverse bores,

wherein the three transverse bores have an essentially circular cross-section, and
wherein the longitudinal bore comprises a threaded section.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn): A bone fixation nail comprising: a longitudinal axis, a longitudinal bore, and three transverse bores, each transverse bore having a first transverse bore section and a second transverse bore section,

wherein each transverse bore has an essentially circular cross-section,
wherein the first transverse bore section and the second transverse bore section are located on opposite sides of the longitudinal axis of the longitudinal bore; and
wherein the longitudinal bore has a threaded section adjacent the first transverse bore section and the second transverse bore section.

Claim 25 (Cancelled)

Claim 26 (Withdrawn): The bone fixation nail of claim 25, the longitudinal bore comprising a threaded section to receive a threaded section of the bushing-like or sleeve-like member.

Claim 27 (Withdrawn): The bone fixation nail of claim 25, the longitudinal bore comprising a press-fit section for receiving a press-fit section of the bushing-like or sleeve-like member.

Claim 28 (Withdrawn): A bone fixing set comprising multiple nails in accordance with claim 3, each nail having different axial spacings between the plurality of transverse bores, and wherein the axial length of the clamping members is smaller than the smallest axial spacing between two successive transverse bores which is present between the nails.